

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 9/12/2008 has been entered.

Claim Objections

Claim 66 is objected to because of the following informalities: Line 1 of paragraph 4 discloses "a transmission unit, configure to" is not clear, the Examiner recommends "a transmission unit, configured to" (emphasis added). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim 71 is objected to because of the following informalities: Line 3 of paragraph 1 discloses "a print instruction from thee printer" (emphasis added). Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 66, 68, 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto et al (U.S. Pat. 6,950,613) in view of Yoshida (U.S. Pub. 2002/0018226).

Fujimoto discloses:

- ***regarding claims 66, 68, 70,*** an information processing apparatus and method and a computer readable medium in which a computer executable program is stored, comprising: a first determination unit, configured to determine whether or not a present user who gives a print instruction to a printer at a present time is the same as a previous user at a previous time (Column 31, Lines 20-32). It is obvious to determine if a user has changed by using IC card, for the purpose of recognizing operational error, as disclosed by Fujimoto.

- a second determination unit, configured to determine print settings (Column 31, Line 62 - Column 32, Line 9) (operating conditions of the office information systems)

- a warning unit, configured to warn when it is determined by the second determination unit that the present print setting is not the same as the previous print setting (Column 32, Lines 4-14)

- a transmission unit, configure to transmit print data to the printer either when it is determined by the second determination unit that the present print setting is the same as the previous print setting or when it is determined by the first determination unit that the present user is the same as the previous user (Column 31, Line 62 – Column 32, Line 22)

Fujimoto does not disclose expressly the following:

- ***regarding claims 66, 68, 70,*** configured to determine whether or not a present print setting set at the present time is the same as a previous print setting at the previous time obtained from the printer when it is determined by said first determination unit that the present user is not the same as the previous user

Yoshida discloses:

- ***regarding claims 66, 68, 70,*** configured to determine whether or not a present print setting set at the present time is the same as a previous print setting at the previous time obtained from the printer when it is determined by said first determination unit that the present user is not the same as the previous user (Paragraphs 0050-0051)

Yoshida discloses that multiple users may use different types of paper in the printing apparatus and instructing the user to the desired sheet in the paper supply port. Fujimoto discloses determining a user and outputting the operating conditions prior to printing, therefore the combination would be to inform the user that the settings (print medium) are not correct when a plurality of users are using the same printing apparatus

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of Yoshida into the device of Fujimoto, for the purpose of performing the print job as desired by the user

Claims 67, 69, 71 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Fujimoto et al (U.S. Pat. 6,950,613) as modified by Yoshida (U.S. Pub. 2002/0018226) as applied to claim 66 above, and further in view of Miyazaki et al (U.S. Pat. 6,832,010).

Fujimoto as modified by Yoshida discloses:

- ***regarding claims 67, 69, 71*** wherein the first determination unit determines whether or not a present user who gives a print instruction to a printer at the present time is the same as the previous user at the previous time (Fujimoto: Column 31, Line 62 – Column 32, Line 22; Yoshida Paragraphs 0050-0051)

Fujimoto as modified by Yoshida does not disclose expressly the following:

- ***regarding claims 67, 69, 71***, an obtaining unit, configured to obtain a printer driver ID of a printer driver that gave a print instruction from the printer

Miyazaki discloses:

- ***regarding claims 67, 69, 71***, an obtaining unit, configured to obtain a printer driver ID of a printer driver that gave a print instruction from the printer (Figure 3; Column 4, Line 62 – Column 5, Line 4)

At the time the invention was made it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the teaching of Miyazaki into the device of Fujimoto as modified by Yoshida, for the purpose of identifying or displaying which user sent the print job to the main controller of the apparatus

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 66-71 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection. Please see the above rejection regarding Fujimoto et al (U.S. Pat. 6,950,613) in view of Yoshida (U.S. Pub. 2002/0018226).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JASON S. UHLENHAKE whose telephone number is (571)272-5916. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Stephen Meier can be reached on (571) 272-2149. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/JASON S UHLENHAKE/
Examiner, Art Unit 2853
October 21, 2008

/Julian D. Huffman/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2853